Straight Truth

WWW.TEHRANTIMES.COM

TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 100,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 45th year | No. 14622 | Sunday | October 29, 2023 | Aban 7, 1402 | Rabi' Al-thani 13, 1445

22nd day of Israel-Gaza war

Cutoff, Brutal Air Raids and Ground Failure

- Iran FM: 'Armed groups' finger is on the trigger' ▸ Page 2
- Hamas and Islamic Jihad powers can't be compared to 10 years ago: Kharrazi ▸ Page 3
- "All American bases being monitored": IRGC ▸ Page 2
- Israel will be swallowed up in ground war: IRGC chief ▸ Page 2
- Region rejects uninvited guest ▸ Page 3

The humiliation of international law

TEHRAN- What is happening in the Gaza Strip is unprecedented in human history. This densely populated area is being bombarded with hundreds of missiles every day. Thousands of people have been martyred and every second that passes we see more children and women being brutally martyred by the Zionist regime.

As this viciousness occurs in broad daylight, one might wonder where international law is and what it is being done by international lawyers. The barbarity of the Zionist regime in Gaza might be another reason for those who have always questioned the efficacy of international law to remain convinced that it is just as fruitless as they claim. Law students around the world may now view international law merely as a means to hold moot courts and entertain themselves. If not so, international law and international mechanisms must act now accordingly.

Anti-Israel demonstrations: Protesters demand end to killing of Gaza children

Thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators marched in central London on Saturday to demand the British government call for a ceasefire after Israel's military widened its air and ground attacks on the Gaza Strip

Protesters around the world are storming the streets demanding an end to the bombing and killing of civilians, particularly children, in Gaza.

Thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters gathered in London on Saturday urging an end to Israel's attacks in the besieged coastal enclave.

Last weekend, 100,000 people took to the streets in London demanding an immediate end to the bombing.

Police expect similar numbers again.

Thousands of Gaza workers in Israel go missing

TEHRAN - Thousands of Gazans working in Israel have gone missing following the rise of escalations in the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian workers in Israel are believed to be held in detention camps, according to Aljazeera.

The Israeli regime has so far refused to confirm the missing workers.

Human rights groups and trade unions believe some of the workers have been illegally detained in military facilities in the occupied West Bank, following the revocation of their permits to work in Israel. Authorities in Israel have so far refused to release the names of those they are holding.

Thousands of workers are thought to have been rounded up by the Israeli army and transferred to undisclosed locations.

▸ Page 5

Raisi urges Islamic world to take decisive stance in support of Palestine

TEHRAN- Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has stressed the need for Islamic governments to take decisive, united, and clear positions in support of Palestine given that the Zionist regime has created catastrophic humanitarian conditions in Gaza by cutting off water and electricity to the besieged enclave and preventing the delivery of food and medicine.

In a telephone conversation on Saturday with the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Raisi noted that Western powers, particularly the United States, have given the Zionist regime the green light to commit atrocities against Gazans.

He additionally pointed out that in order to put an end to the war machine and atrocities of the murderous Israeli regime, Palestine urgently needs the world's serious and effective assistance, especially from Muslim countries.

The two leaders also weighed plans for closer Muslim unity to stop the Israeli regime's "war machine".

The emir of Qatar condemned the crimes committed by the Israeli regime in the Gaza Strip, calling them evidence of the debased double standards of the West.

Op-ed

China's proposals on AI governance

By Chang Hua,
Chinese Ambassador to Tehran

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a new frontier of human development. Currently, the fast development of AI around the globe has exerted a profound influence on socioeconomic development and the progress of human civilization and brought huge opportunities to the world.

However, AI technologies also bring about unpredictable risks and complicated challenges. The governance of AI, a common task faced by all countries in the world, bears on the future of humanity.

On October 18th, 2023, China released the Global Artificial Intelligence Governance Initiative (GIGI), ▸ Page 7

IRNA/ Ahmad Moeini Jam

Iran runners-up at 2022 Asian Para Games

HANGZHOU, China – Iran delegation finished in second place in the 2022 Asian Para Games on Saturday.

The Iranian athletes won 44 gold medals, 46 silver medals and 41 bronze medals.

China won the title with 214 gold medals, 167 silvers and 140 bronzes.

Japan came third, winning 42 golds, 49 silvers and 59 bronzes.

South Korea finished in fourth place with 30 gold medals, 33 silvers and 40 bronzes.

A total of 128 male athletes represented Iran in 16 events and 82 female athletes competed in 11 events.

Iran had finished in third place in the 2018 Asian Para Games held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Iran's slogan in the 2022 Asian Para Games was "Faith, Iran, Honor" and the name of the delegation was "Children of Iran".

Hangzhou 2022 took place from Oct. 22 to 28. About 3,000 athletes competed across 22 sports.

Iran, Russia to invest $38b in developing INSTC

TEHRAN - Iran and Russia are going to invest about $38 billion in the development of Trans Caspian shipping lines as part of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), Iran's Maritime News Agency (MANA) reported.

Addressing an international conference dubbed "The North-South Corridor; a New Concept" in the Russian city of Astrakhan on Friday, the Iranian director of the Russian Port of Solyanka, Dariush Jamali, branded the corridor as "a key element of the Eurasian transport network".

In this conference, which was attended by the governor-general of Russia's Astrakhan, Iran's ambassador to Russia, manager of Afghanistan Railway Company, and head of Iraq Railway Company, Jamali pointed to the three western, ▸ Page 4

TEHRAN PAPERS

13 proposals of Iran to promote SCO status in global economy

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in the yesterday's Iranian newspapers.

In a commentary, the Iran newspaper discussed the visit of Iran's First Vice President to Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, to address the 22nd meeting of the Council of Prime Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and wrote: The Iranian first vice president's meetings were focused on discussing the prospects of multilateralism as well as bilateral cooperation. Mohammad Mokhber›s speech at the meeting of the Council of Prime Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization was important because it not only revolved around theoretical and political facts, but also included six general pillars that focused on 13 operational proposals to help further develop the SCO. These proposals can help provide the basis for the promotion of the member countries of the organization and the promotion of the economic status of the Shanghai Organization. Of course, considering the issue of the illegal and oppressive U.S. sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mokhber's meetings with officials from different countries centered around the use of national currencies in bilateral trade. The Iranian vice president discussed various other issues with SCO officials that can help promote Iran's position in the regional and international order.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: Corridor development program of Iran

Vatan-e-Emrooz wrote in a note: The international system is passing from a traditionalist and unilateralist order to a new one based on multilateralism which includes the effective presence of all countries and emergence of new world actors. The Islamic Republic of Iran, with its active presence in multilateral arrangements, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and its close cooperation with the countries bordering the Caspian Sea, is considered to be an important regional actor in the new world order. Iran is the land of logistics and transit opportunities, and accordingly, it is ready to create a comprehensive transit corridor to connect the member countries of these organizations. So far, important steps have been taken to make use of Iran's capacities to create a far-reaching North-South corridor. In this plan, the commercial and economic interests of a variety of countries in South and East Asia have been taken into consideration. Countries in Central Asia, the Caucuses, the Black Sea and Europe will also benefit from this corridor. Iran can pursue the development of the North-South corridor as well as an East-West one passing through the Mediterranean, through its influence in international organizations like the SCO and BRICS.

Sobh-e-No: America is spurning basic human principles

In an analysis, Sobh-e-No analyzed Washington's support for the crimes of the Zionist regime and said: According to Iranian Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian, instead of sending rockets and bombs to Gaza, America should establish peace and stop supporting the Zionist regime in its genocide in Gaza. Iran has always been a supporter of peace and security and does not welcome the potential expansion of war in the region. Another point that must be taken into consideration regarding the Iranian foreign minister's remarks, is that the U.S. has also been acting as an unequivocal supporter of the Israeli regime in the field of diplomacy. Many countries have been trying to introduce a resolution in the Security Council to condemn Israel's sickening crimes in Gaza and ask for a ceasefire. But Washington has been wholeheartedly standing against such resolutions and helping the regime continue its crimes with no consequences. The U.S. is, in fact, preventing the Security Council from fulfilling its duties. The U.S. not only opposed any stop to the Israeli regime›s crimes in Gaza, but also refused to vote against a resolution to allow humanitarian aid to the besieged civilians under bombardment in Gaza. This is a clear violation of human rights and goes to show that the U.S., despite its constant claims, has no regard for humanity and acts irresponsibly.

Hamshahri: Biden›s nightmare

In an article, Hamshahri addressed the recent claim and warning of the United States against Iran and said: The United States has reportedly blamed Iran for recent attacks on its military bases in Syria and Iraq and asked the authorities of the Islamic Republic to stop these attacks. Washington›s messages to Tehran and Biden›s alleged position took place while, firstly, America is not seeking to expand the war, and secondly, it has asked Iran to practice restraint. The Biden administration is sending a warning to Iranian authorities and officials while in reality, it is desperately asking the Islamic Republic not to open more fronts against Washington and Israel. The U.S. knows that the continuation of this situation would cause both Israel and the U.S. to get into a quagmire in West Asia. According to Mohammad Jamshidi, the political chief of the president›s office, the messages of the U.S. were an open plea towards Iran asking it to have mercy on American forces.

Iran FM: 'Armed groups' finger is on the trigger'

Iran committed to back Palestine, Amir Abdollahian tells UN chief

TEHRAN- Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the Iranian foreign minister, has restated the Islamic Republic's solidarity with the Palestinian people who are afflicted by the Israeli regime's bestial crimes.

Hossein Amir Abdollahian made the statements in a meeting with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in New York on Friday, where the top Iranian diplomat was attending an extraordinary meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Gaza war.

"The Islamic Republic has placed consistent support for the Palestinian people's liberating struggle and resistance with the aim of complete realization of their human rights, among the substantive principles of its foreign policy," he told the UN chief.

Amir Abdollahian reiterated Tehran's emphatic condemnation of Tel Aviv's ongoing slaughter in the Gaza Strip, where the occupying regime has waged a three-week-long assault.

The occupying regime's lethal strikes against people in Gaza and the West Bank have been made possible by certain nations' silence as well as the U.S.'s assistance, Amir Abdollahian lamented.

He urged the international community to fulfill its obligation to back the Palestinian people's resistance to Israeli aggression by acting swiftly and decisively, with a focus on the UN Security Council.

"Iran backs whatever political solution that would enable immediate cessation of the Israeli regime's ongoing crimes against humanity and genocide in Gaza, continuous transfer of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian territory, and prevention of the forced displacement of Gazans," the foreign minister said.

He issued a warning, saying that as long as the occupying regime continues to commit war crimes against Gaza, there is a great possibility that the conflict spread and new fronts emerge in opposition to the Zionist regime throughout the region.

According to Amir Abdollahian, only a total end to the occupation of Palestine, the repatriation of Palestinian refugees to their homeland, the holding of a referendum involving all of Palestine's original inhabitants, and ultimately the creation of an independent Palestinian state with the holy city of al-Quds as its capital can bring about a just and sustainable peace in the region.

Guterres, for his part, emphasized Iran's unique position in the region and called on the Islamic Republic to persist in its diplomatic and constructive political activities.

The UN chief called the present state of humanitarian affairs in Gaza "catastrophic" and urged all parties to facilitate an instantaneous end to hostilities and the delivery of humanitarian supplies to the coastal region.

Meanwhile, Guterres emphasized that the world body is insistent on a political solution to the current state of affairs.

"Armed groups' finger is on the trigger"

In an interview with NPR on Friday, Amir Abdollahian noted that groups allied with Iran are prepared to strike if Israel's war against Hamas continues.

He also said that he met "leaders of the resistance in Lebanon and also Palestinian groups" in recent weeks and heard of plans that are "more powerful and deeper than what you've witnessed."

"If this situation continues, and women and children and civilians are still killed in Gaza and the West Bank, anything will be possible," Abdollahian added.

"They have enough missiles, rockets and drones and can easily get them from anywhere," he said, adding, "They have whatever it takes to produce their own weapons and they have their own training and that is why they decided themselves to go ahead with this operation."

Below are some additional highlights from NPR's interview with Amir Abdollahian.

On what would cause Iran to support a widening of the war

We don't really want this conflict to spread out. Actually, we're advising everybody and encouraging them to move toward the stopping of war crimes as soon as possible. But you know, the situation remains complicated. It's difficult for our region to tolerate the fact that 7,000 civilians have been killed as the result of the bombardments of the Israeli regime. This is the image that we're now seeing in the region and because of the continuation of crimes of the Israeli regime, the whole region has been turned into a powder keg.

On whether Iran is urging its allies in the region to exercise restraint

They decide for themselves. At any moment, anything can happen. But we do encourage the U.S. to abandon its absolute total support of the Israeli regime. According to information we have inside the region, both the security and political systems of Israel have totally collapsed. The Israeli citizens have no trust whatsoever in [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu and his security and political system. Right now, the only thing functional in Israel is their war machine that is also being run and controlled and managed by the U.S. Of course, if I were to be fair, I'd say Netanyahu also has his own role to play. Because if the attacks and the war stop, then he will fall in less than two days.

About the foreign minister's past comments about launching "pre-emptive action" via members of the "resistance front" and the subsequent barrage of rockets fired from Lebanon

Two weeks ago I visited the region and I met with some leaders of the countries of my region and with the leaders of the resistance in Lebanon and also the Palestinian groups ... What I gathered from the plans that they have – they have their finger on the trigger. You know, much more powerful and deeper than what you've witnessed. Therefore, I believe that if this situation continues and women and children and civilians are still killed in Gaza and the West Bank, anything will be possible ... Therefore they have their own calculations for their own security, and as I've said they decide for themselves.

Regarding a recent comment by a senior Hamas official based in Beirut that, "the implementation [of the attack] was all Hamas, but we do not deny Iran's help and support"

We consider Hamas a Palestinian liberation movement. They are fighting the occupiers and I said the same thing in my speech that I just delivered to the UN General Assembly that they're acting according to international laws. Iran has never approved the killing of civilians, but we do have our political support for the liberation movement so that the occupied territories will be freed. Therefore, our support is only political. Today they have enough missiles, rockets and drones and they can easily get them from anywhere ... Now, currently, they have whatever it takes to produce their own weapons and they have their own training and that is why they decided themselves to go ahead with this operation.

About the hostages Hamas is holding in Gaza

Some days ago, I had a meeting with [the head of the political wing of Hamas], Mr. Ismail Haniyeh in Doha, Qatar. He said that they stand ready to combat the army of Israel for a long period of time, militarily. He said that they can come to an agreement with Israel to keep the civilians away from conflict. It will be like this: We hit their military, they hit our military. It will be just between the military people, leave the civilians out of it and we've been ready to do it for a long time. We even held talks with the Qatari officials on how we can help the release of the non-military or the civilian prisoners. I raised the issue with Mr. Ismail Haniyeh. He said we have no motivation, no reason to keep those non-military prisoners. So, as soon as there's a ceasefire, we're going to identify them, to somehow separate the military from the non-military and release them.

On why he believes it's necessary to wait for a ceasefire to release non-military hostages

You know, [Israel is] killing large numbers of people and at the same time you expect them to release these people, giving them a free hand in killing them and at the same time tying your own hands? This is not logical ... Why are you supporting the continuation of war with this question? Why not try for a ceasefire? ... When the time comes for the release of the military prisoners then they should not forget that there are 6,000 Palestinian prisoners who are held captive by the Israelis. But the important thing now is that they're ready to release those that are not with the military.

IRGC chief says Israel will be swallowed up in ground war

TEHRAN – IRGC chief commander Major General Hossein Salami warned the Israeli regime on Saturday that a potential ground offensive into the besieged Gaza Strip would lead to its downfall.

"In all ground operations so far, the Israelis have been defeated. They do not have the ability to wage war against Hamas. The ground is Hamas's strong point, and if they engage in a ground war, they will be swallowed up, and Gaza will become their grave," explained the general.

"The blow that the enemy received in the Operation Al-Aqsa Storm was exceptional, unexpected, surprising, and powerful. The crazy reactions of Israel and its supporters show that they no longer have mental balance and are confused and disoriented," Salami remarked, noting that Western leaders keep arranging visits to the occupied territories to console the regime. However, the major general said, they must know that they will not be able to revive Israel anymore.

"What does the presence of Zionist people in the heart of the Islamic nation mean? They seek to undermine Islamic territories, and as long as they exist, we will only see evil and insecurity.

The U.S., Britain, Germany, and other supporters of Israel have joined hands to destroy Palestinian children, but know that Gaza will remain steadfast, and the enemies, like other defeated wars, will leave the region in disgrace".

"All American bases being monitored": IRGC

TEHRAN – Spokesman for Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps Brigadier General Ramezan Sharif announced on Saturday that Tehran is keeping a close eye on U.S. bases in the West Asia region.

Sharif made the remarks during an interview with Lebanon's Al Mayadeen news channel.

"Washington is the primary supporter of the Zionist regime and has created an air bridge for sending military equipment and terrifying bombs to the Zionist regime," said the spokesman, warning that the continuation of mass killings in Gaza will eventually cause Muslims around the world to lose their patience.

"The supporters of the Zionist regime should be aware that there are some hands that cannot reach this regime but can reach the American forces that are managing this war," he noted.

The spokesman's remarks come as several U.S. bases in Iraq and Syria have come under fire by resistance groups in recent days. Iranian officials have repeatedly warned that relentless Israeli crimes against Palestinians are sure to provoke a strong response from regional forces.

Tehran, Moscow must work hard to stop Israeli bloodshed in Gaza: Iranian diplomat

TEHRAN- Iran's deputy foreign minister for political affairs has noted that Iran and Russia must use all of their capacities to put a halt to Israel's attacks on innocent Palestinians in Gaza and deliver humanitarian relief aid to the blockaded region.

Ali Bagheri Kani made the comments during a meeting with Russian Security Council Deputy Secretary Alexander Venediktov in Moscow on Friday, as the Israeli regime is relentlessly bombarding the defenseless people of Gaza.

According to the Russian security official, the United States is the main cause of the current crisis in Palestine.

Venediktov went on to say that the U.S. aims to incite unrest by establishing hotspots throughout West Asia.

He added that the White House officials show no interest in advancing regional security and peace.

Additionally, Venediktov formally invited Ali Akbar Ahmadian, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, to visit Moscow to address the most recent mutual, regional, and international concerns.

Bagheri Kani visited Moscow on Thursday at the request of his Russian counterpart to discuss the Gaza conflict.

During his stay, he met Abu Marzouk, a Hamas Politburo member. During the meeting, the deputy foreign minister said Tehran's "priority is an immediate cease-fire, providing assistance to the people and lifting the repressive blockade of Gaza."

Also on Thursday, Iran and Russia's deputy foreign ministers met to discuss the situation in the Caucasus, highlighting the 3+3 format meeting in Tehran to promote peace and stability in the South Caucasus region without outside intervention.

Bagheri Kani and Mikhail Galuzin also addressed a wide variety of issues concerning Iran-Russia cooperation.

Additionally, Bagheri Kani held talks with Sergei Ryabkov, Russia's deputy foreign minister for North and South American countries. They exchanged views on cooperation among BRICS countries as well as international security.

Iran urges world to unite to confront Israeli crimes, assist Palestinians

TEHRAN- Iran has criticized the international community for doing little to stop Israel's "war crimes" against civilians in the Gaza Strip, stating that the world needs to act to stop the criminal Zionists and aid the Palestinian people.

"Rise up for the world peace and security in the face of the Zionist criminals and their supporters and defend the oppressed Palestinians in Gaza," Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said in a post on his X account on Friday.

He forewarned against the absence of a strong response to Israel's atrocities during the last three weeks from the international community.

The spokesman also stressed that the absence of severe global reaction to the horrible crimes perpetrated by the Zionists in Gaza and allowing the war criminals and their obvious supporters go unpunished would be tantamount to discrediting international mechanisms, rights, laws and regulations.

"Lack of a preventive and regretful measure and the Zionists' impunity for their war crimes in Gaza mean that justice seekers, freedom seeking and the advocates of international peace and security have compromised and surrendered to the war criminals and villains," Kanaani added.

Kanaani also said, "Zionist war criminals and their known advocates will soon kneel before the exemplary willpower, perseverance and resilience of the Palestinian nation; and will be punished for their crimes."

Region rejects uninvited guest

By Alireza Akbari

TEHRAN- Speculating on Iran's alleged involvement in the October 7 Storm operation and blurring Israel's defeats, Fox News ran a story on October 27 titled "Hamas attack is Iran's opening volley against Israel. Here's how US must respond".

The presence of U.S. forces in West Asia has been the cause of chaos. While Washington urges to be permanently active in the area, its policy no longer works.

The military presence of the U.S. in the region has intensified tensions. The deployment of equipment and marines or retired U.S. commanders under the guise of counselors for the armies of some countries has not helped to improve security. A quick look at Afghanistan and Iraq shows that the U.S. army has left these areas in turmoil. It is uncertain if retired U.S. commanders could actually increase security in the region.

Viewed from another aspect, the U.S. presence in the region threatens the territorial integrity and the economic revenues of the countries in the region.

As with the formation of China-led groups (BRICS, and SCO), there is no room for Washington to seek markets in West Asia.

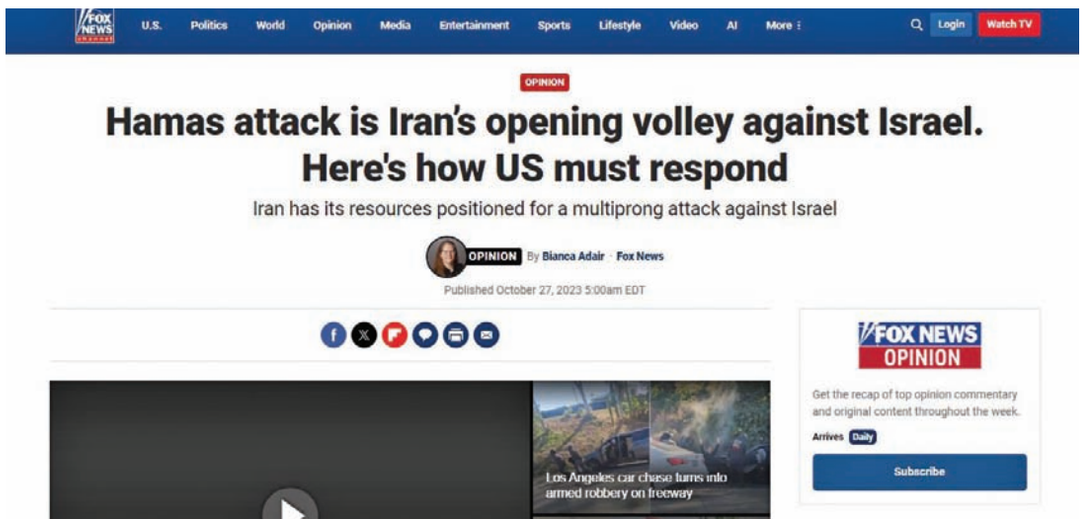
Also, the outsiders' proximity- either in the form of U.S. bases or NATO- cannot ease tensions as Yerevan and Baku concluded to halt tensions in the Caucasus region through discussions not the military presence of outsiders.

The U.S. modus operandi to guarantee its cuisine bono in the region has reached a deadlock.

Washington's supports for Tel Aviv

Bianca Adir, the writer for Fox News, raised her eyebrows at the U.S. intelligence community's claims that "so far it has not seen any signs of direct Iranian involvement in the decision of Hamas to launch an unprecedented strike on Israel."

The jaw-dropper support of Biden's administration ranging from the regional tours of Secretary Blinken to the heartwarming announcements of Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin, and the meeting of President Biden with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has rolled out the red carpet for Tel Aviv's further war crimes and brutalities.



In an exclusive interview with Sky News a week after the launch of the Storm operation, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen urged Republicans to appoint a new House of Representatives speaker to enable greater financial support to be agreed for Israel.

She also said: "America can certainly afford to support Israel."

Upon the financial backing for the Tel Aviv regime, Biden considered a $100 billion fund in mid-October.

U.S. Senate leaders had said earlier that they expected Biden to send them a request for billions of dollars in assistance for Israel, according to Reuters.

Senator Ben Cardin, Democratic chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he had not yet seen a specific figure for the supplemental request. However, he would not be surprised if it was as large as $100 billion.

"I hope it's enough to get us through 2024," Cardin told Reuters.

He said he thought it had a good chance of passing the Senate with support from Biden's fellow Democrats and Republicans. "I think this is our best shot to get it done," Cardin said.

Bloomberg reported that Biden was considering making a $100 billion request.

"We are going to do everything in our power to ensure the Senate delivers the support for Israel and the rest of the package. We intend to get the package by the end of this week," the Senate's majority leader, Democratic Senator Chuck Schumer, told his weekly press conference.

Regarding the unwavering assistance to Tel Aviv, Austin said on October 7, "I am closely monitoring developments in Israel. Our commitment to Israel's right to defend itself remains unwavering."

On October 13, Austin landed in Tel Aviv to meet Israeli leaders and once again voice the "unwavering" support for Tel Aviv.

"We have your back," said the Pentagon chief upon his visit in Israel.

Austin's visit came after his attendance at NATO defense ministers meeting in Brussels.

On the verge of Austin's meeting with Israeli leaders in Tel Aviv, Politico reported: "Austin has directed significant military moves to support Israel in recent days, deploying an aircraft carrier strike group to the Eastern Mediterranean and additional fighter aircraft to the Middle East. DOD is also sending munitions and Iron Dome air defense interceptors to Tel Aviv, in addition, DOD officials are working on Israeli requests to also transfer precision-guided small-diameter bombs, and Joint Direct Attack Munition kits that convert unguided bombs into precision-guided munitions, the senior DOD official said."

The Israeli regime received its 45th cargo plane arms, including military supplies and armored vehicles on Thursday. The delivery of the shipment was confirmed by the regime's war ministry in a post on X.

Meanwhile, the fake regime's brutal attacks on the Gaza Strip have exacerbated since Thursday.

Resistance rooted in Palestinians' heart

Unlike the fake Zionist regime which is desperately looking for Westerners' help to guarantee its survival, resistance is deeply rooted in the heart of the Palestinian nation. It is formed based on its own agenda, which is defending the rights of the oppressed Palestinians.

The Zionist regime, which is expected to guarantee the interests of the U.S. in West Asia, has been formed based on an illusion- better to say a myth- yet resistance groups have been formed based on Palestine's cause.

Whereas the Zionist regime seeks Westerners' support, resistance groups have stood on their own feet, echoing the "enough is enough" message.

Speculation by Fox News over the military confrontation between Iran and the U.S. is rooted in another desperate move of the Zionist regime to mitigate its humiliation over its October 7 defeat.

Resistance groups do not need any government to arm them. The Gaza Strip has been under complete siege for a long time, yet the Storm operation was launched successfully. In case there had been any help from Iran in either the design or the launch of the Hamas operation, the spy services of the Zionist regime would have trumpeted the related documents over Iran's involvement in the operation.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad powers can't be compared to 10 years ago: Kharrazi

TEHRAN – Kamal Kharrazi, the director of the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations (SCFR), says the military power of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad is not comparable to 10 years ago and they are ready for a long battle.

In an interview with the Al Alam news network aired on Saturday, Kharrazi also says the Zionist regime's army will face a "guerrilla war" if it enters the Gaza Strip.

"Guerrilla wars are naturally protracted and America experienced a guerrilla war in Vietnam and could not defeat the Vietnamese. This is the situation in Gaza as well, the war continues, and certainly the Zionist regime will not achieve any results," the SCFR chief predicts.

The veteran politician believes Israel cannot destroy the resistance in the Gaza Strip, saying blockading the coastal enclave from land, sea and air have failed to do so.

"Basically, the resistance, especially Islamic resistance, cannot be eliminated. No matter how many martyrs the Islamic resistance gives, new forces will join it and this path will continue. As it has been so far. All the crimes that the Zionist regime has committed against the Palestinian people, especially the Islamic resistance, have been aimed at destroying them.

But the result of these actions has been the expansion of resistance. Today, the power of Hamas and Islamic Jihad cannot be compared with five or 10 years ago. This shows that Islamic resistance is fertile. Therefore, the Zionist regime cannot destroy the Islamic resistance."

The Islamic resistance in Gaza is "an underground movement and the regime's soldiers cannot deal with it on the ground," he notes.

Kharrazi also says the purpose behind Israel's relentless bombardment of Gaza is to force people to leave their lands and create another Nakba (disaster). "Naturally, one of the policies of the Zionist regime is to create a new tragedy. If this regime wants to relocate the people of Gaza, where should they go? Should they go to

Egypt? Or if he wants to deport people from the West Bank, should they go to Jordan? But you can see that Jordan and Egypt have strongly resisted this policy. Because this issue will cause serious problems and consequences for them. The international community is also not ready to accept such forced migration."

Kharrazi also says currently the Zionist regime's allies are seeking to prevent the spread of war and the collapse of the Israeli regime.

Kharrazi, who was foreign minister from 1997 to 2005, also suggests that the United States must prevent the continuation of the Israeli crimes in Gaza, warning that in such a situation the possibility of the spread of the war is high.

After the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation on October 7, the leaders of the United States, Britain, Germany and France visited the occupied territories to express solidarity with the Tel Aviv regime. However, Kharrazi believes that the West is reluctant to being drawn into the war.

"Supporters of Israel, including the United States and European countries, are worried about being dragged into this war. While the Zionists are interested in expanding the war, the authorities in these countries warn the leaders of the (Israeli) regime against spreading the war and entering Gaza. By making these trips, while supporting this regime politically and providing weapons to it, they are trying to control the 'blind anger' of this regime and prevent it from collapsing," the former chief diplomat remarks.

Kharrazi not that the West is now facing a serious dilemma caused by themselves, referring to the creation of Israel after World War II.

"They are now facing a problem caused by an illegitimate regime that they have created. Therefore, the main purpose of these trips is to control the anger of the Zionist regime and prevent the spread of war so that they are not forced to enter into this conflict."

On whether the U.S. will enter the war in favor of Israel or not, Kharrazi says, "This issue depends on the upcoming developments. If the war spreads, their policy will naturally change, but in the current situation, the policy pursued by the allies of the Zionist regime is aimed at preventing the spread of war. Their advice to Zionists and other countries is to try not to spread this war because they are caught in Ukraine. They are also facing internal challenges coupled with presidential elections in 2024. Therefore, it is not in their interest to spread such a war."

The United States has killed the draft UN resolutions calling for a ceasefire in the Israeli-Hamas war. "They support the continued aggressive actions of the Zionist regime in different ways. For example, in the United Nations, they veto any resolution that is proposed for a ceasefire. They opposed the Russian proposed resolution to the Security Council for a ceasefire; they also vetoed Brazil's resolution.

Therefore, at the political level and in the United Nations, they provide the utmost support to the Zionist regime. But they don't consider it in their interest to get involved in this war," the former foreign minister points out.

On whether the Israeli army can enter the Gaza Strip to face the resistance forces, the veteran politician said, "Although the Zionist regime has announced that it wants to enter Gaza, it is very hesitant to do so. The Americans, Western countries and former military commanders of the Zionist regime know what kind of predicament a military entry into Gaza will create for them.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

SPORTS

Iran unchanged in FIFA ranking

TEHRAN - Iran national football team maintained their 21st position in the latest FIFA World Ranking issued on Thursday.

Japan moved up one spot as the Samurai Blue retained their position as Asia›s top side Japan, who will be seeking a record-extending fifth AFC Asian Cup title in Doha 2023, moved up to 18th.

Korea Republic moved up two spots to 24th.

Australia (27th), Saudi Arabia (57th) and Qatar (61st) were unchanged while Iraq (68th) and United Arab Emirates (69th) moved up one spot each.

Rounding off Asia›s top 10 sides were Oman, who moved up one spot to 72 while Uzbekistan improved by two to sit in 73rd.

Bangladesh were the continent›s biggest movers as they surged six places to 183rd.

The Argentina national team remained top in the latest FIFA rankings.

Argentina won both of their World Cup qualifying matches in October and keep top stop. They are followed by France in second place while Brazil, who they will play against in November, is in third place.

Fourth place is England with Belgium in fifth place as Portugal is in sixth and Netherlands in seven. Spain in eight, Italy in nine and Croatia occupies tenth place in the standings.

The next FIFA World Ranking will be published on Nov. 30.

Iran's Safaei wins gold in chess

HANGZHOU, China – Malihe Safaei of Iran claimed a gold medal in chess in the 2022 Asian Para Games on Thursday.

She claimed the gold medal in the Women's Individual Standard VI-B1.

A total of 128 male athletes represent Iran in 16 events and 82 female athletes compete in 11 events.

A total of 128 male athletes represented Iran in 16 events and 82 female athletes competed in 11 events.

Iran had finished in third place in the 2018 Asian Para Games held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Iran's slogan in the 2022 Asian Para Games was "Faith, Iran, Honor" and the name of the delegation was "Children of Iran".

Hangzhou 2022 took place from Oct. 22 to 28. About 3,000 athletes competed across 22 sports.

Moradi wins gold in 400meter: Hangzhou 2022

HANGZHOU, China – Mehrdad Moradi of Iran seized a gold medal in the 2022 Asian Para Games on Saturday.

He finished in first place with a time of 49.60 seconds in the Men›s 400m-T12 Final.

Vietnamese Nguyen Khanh Minh Pham won the silver with 50.17 seconds and the bronze medal went to Thailand's Kissanapong Tisuwan with 50.49 seconds.

A total of 128 male athletes represented Iran in 16 events and 82 female athletes competed in 11 events.

Iran had finished in third place in the 2018 Asian Para Games held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Iran's slogan in the 2022 Asian Para Games was "Faith, Iran, Honor" and the name of the delegation was "Children of Iran".

Hangzhou 2022 took place from Oct. 22 to 28. About 3,000 athletes competed across 22 sports.

Iranian powerlifters win gold and silver in 2022 Asian Para Games

HANGZHOU, China – Ahmad Aminzadeh and Mahdi Sayadi of Iran claimed a gold and silver medal respectively in the 2022 Asian Para Games on Saturday.

Aminzadeh lifted 266kg and came first in the +107kg. His countryman Sayadi won the silver with 244kg. The bronze medal went to Jordan's Jamil saleh salti Elshebli with 235kg.

A total of 128 male athletes represented Iran in 16 events and 82 female athletes competed in 11 events.

Iran had finished in third place in the 2018 Asian Para Games held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Iran's slogan in the 2022 Asian Para Games was "Faith, Iran, Honor" and the name of the delegation was "Children of Iran".

Hangzhou 2022 took place from Oct. 22 to 28. About 3,000 athletes competed across 22 sports.

Amirzadegan wins gold in 2022 Asian Para Games

HANGZHOU, China – Fatemeh Amirzadegani of Iran claimed a gold medal in the Women›s 400m-T12 Final of the 2022 Asian Para Games on Saturday.

She came first, clocking 59.88 seconds.

Chinese runner Yaqin Shen won the silver with 1:00.18 and Uzbekistan's Yokutkhon Kholbekova seized the silver with 1:01.01.

A total of 128 male athletes represented Iran in 16 events and 82 female athletes competed in 11 events. Iran had finished in third place in the 2018 Asian Para Games held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Iran's slogan in the 2022 Asian Para Games was "Faith, Iran, Honor" and the name of the delegation was "Children of Iran".

Hangzhou 2022 took place from Oct. 22 to 28. About 3,000 athletes competed across 22 sports.

Iranian-Austraian coach Mohebbi on verge of winning accolade in CSL

TEHRAN - Shanghai Port Football Club, led by the Spanish head coach Javier Pereira and assisted by Iranian-Austrian coach Jahanyar Mohebbi, is poised to reclaim the Chinese Football Super League (CSL) title, which has eluded them since 2018.

Mohebbi, a 31-year-old coach, is slowly gaining recognition among Iranian football fans. He began his coaching journey alongside Iranian-American coach Afshin Ghotbi, collaborating with him in Chinese clubs Shijiazhuang Ever Bright and Cangzhou Mighty Lions, as well as the Iranian team Foolad.

Mohebbi then became a part of the technical staff under Spanish coach Javier Pereira at the Chinese Henan SSLM club, gaining his trust along the way. Pereira had such strong trust in Mohebbi that he decided to bring him along to La Liga. Mohebbi spent a while on Levante›s bench with Perrreira. Now, they are both part of Shanghai Port and are on the brink of winning the Chinese super league title.

With only two matchdays remaining in the Super League competition, Shanghai Port holds a commanding 5-point lead over second-place team Shandong Taishan. They are just one draw away from securing the coveted title.

As Pereira and Mohebbi›s contracts near expiration, clubs from Iran, the UAE, and Qatar have expressed interest. The future is uncertain, but a move to the West Asian leagues may occur.

On the other hand, the Shanghai Port club managers are interested in renewing the contract with their technical staff. Yet, it›s improbable since Pereira desires a fresh challenge and Jahaiyar Mohebbi will accompany him.

Iran blind football come second at Hangzhou

HANGZHOU, China – Iran's blind football team finished in second place in the 2022 Asian Para Games on Saturday.

Team Melli lost to China 2-1 on penalties after the match ended in goalless draw in the regular time.

Iran shared the spoils in a goalless draw with Japan and defeated India, Thailand, Malaysia and China in the preliminary stage. Thailand came third defeating Japan 1-0 in the bronze medal match.

A 2-fold rise in annual pistachio production expected

TEHRAN- A member of Iran Pistachio Association announced the prediction of a two-fold increase in Iran's pistachio production in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2024), and said: "Considering this figure, we have the possibility of exporting pistachios worth 1.5 billion dollars a year."

Jalil Karbakhsh Davari said: "Estimates show that between 200,000 and 210,000 tons of dry pistachios will be produced on 450,000 hectares of lands this year, which is a two-fold increase compared to last year."

According to the data released by the European Union's statistics office, Eurostat, Iran has exported over €48 million of pistachios to the European Union (EU) member states during the first six months of 2023.

Iran's pistachio export to the union has dropped 39 percent in the first half of this year, from €78.6 million in the same period of time in the past year, the Eurostat data indicate.

The Islamic Republic was the second biggest exporter of pistachios to Europe after the United States in the mentioned six months.

Germany and Spain were the top importers of Iranian pistachios in January-June 2023, when Germany imported €32 million worth of Iranian pistachios and Spain imports amounted to €7 million.

Although Iran is mostly known for its vast hydrocarbon resources, there are some other precious products that people all around the world put the Iranian brand on and appreciate greatly, one such product is Iranian "green gold" or pistachio.

Iran exported 56,298 tons of pistachio worth $405.04 million to 57 countries during the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

> Iran exports 56,298 tons of pistachio worth $405.04m in past year

The annual export indicates a 55.7 percent fall in value and a 58.4 percent drop in weight, year on year.

Over the past decade, climate change has caused severe drought in Iran, leading to 85 percent of the country being classified as arid or semi-arid. The decline in annual average rainfall and shortage of surface water has forced farmers to dig more wells to pump water from underground reserves. Nearly half of the 750,000 wells dug in Iranian farms are illegal, which indicates why the unconstrained use of underground water in agriculture is the main source of water waste in the country.

The situation is the same in Kerman province, which accounts for 70 percent of Iran's pistachio production. As announced by Hossein Rezaei, the secretary-general of the Iran Pistachio Association (IPA), the production of pistachio in Iran fell by 70,000 tons in the Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022) to hover at around 150,000 tons.

In early August, the director-general of the tropical and semi-tropical fruits office of Iran's Agriculture Ministry warned against the use of traditional horticultural methods due to climate changes and rising air temperatures, and emphasized that using modern horticulture methods is necessary to deal with climate change.

Zahra Jalili-Moqaddam reiterated that due to climate changes and increasing air temperature in the country, traditional management and methods of production in tropical and subtropical gardens are no longer the answer, and modern horticultural technologies and methods should be used.

Currently, orchards are the most important center of production of agricultural products for export in Iran, and horticulture is the most central sector in the country's agricultural export.

Therefore, the implementation of the orchard reform plan of the Agriculture Ministry, which is effective in the quality of production and the increase of gardeners' income, plays a noticeable part in the export of garden products.

In this due, the development of horticulture, improvement of gardens, development of dense cultivation to increase yield per unit area, use of modern irrigation systems, use of canopy to reduce risks in the horticulture sector, and increase the quality of produced products are among the most important programs in progress in the field of horticulture in the country.

The Ministry of Agriculture has also conducted negotiations with companies that manufacture tools, equipment, and tractors for the development of mechanization in the field of horticulture in order to improve the mechanization factor in this field.

According to Mohammad-Mehdi Boroumandi, the deputy agriculture minister for horticulture affairs, Iran has a special position in the field of horticulture.

The official says that all researchers believe that the advantage of Iran's agriculture sector is horticulture because it creates more employment and brings a good foreign currency income.

He has mentioned the renovation of gardens as one of the important programs of the ministry and said: "The capacity of agricultural production in the country is more than this and should be increased."

Referring to the important role of farmers and gardeners in maintaining food security, he pointed out that apart from four tropical fruits including bananas, coconuts, mangoes, and pineapples, the country is completely self-sufficient in providing other agricultural products.

Underlining that Iran has achieved good success in the field of food security, Boroumandi pointed out that the Ministry of Agriculture, as the ministry of food security, despite the climatic problems and all the economic constraints, has managed to earn good foreign currency in addition to meeting the domestic needs and food security of the country.

Back in January, the official said the Agriculture Ministry is trying to manage production by identifying new export target markets.

"Production, which is more than consumption, can be included in the country's trade basket. In this regard, the Ministry of Agriculture is trying to experience an increase in production per surface unit by implementing regular programs", he added.

Iran, Russia to invest $38b in developing INSTC

From page 1 ▸ eastern and maritime or trans-Caspian routes of the INSTC and noted that Iran and Russia have considered investing about $38 billion for the development of the corridor, of which the shares of Russia and Iran will be 35 percent and 34 percent, respectively.

He further highlighted the measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Line (IRISL) to develop the INSTC route, including purchasing 30 rail wagons, and 5,400 containers, as well as, buying and ordering the construction of 21 equipped vessels for strengthening the maritime routes.

The investment of the IRISL Group at Russia's Solyanka Port to increase the capacity of the port and its infrastructure and purchase ships is among the most important measures taken by the group, he added.

Since 2002, Iran, Russia, and India have worked intermittently on a new transportation system by rail, road, and sea (running 4,500 miles through at least six Eurasian countries and benefitting seven others) that could be a game-changer for global trade.

The goal of the multilateral project is to cut travel costs by up to a third and shipping time by nearly a half. It could eventually provide major commercial links between Asia and Europe.

In late August, a Russian freight train left the country for Saudi Arabia passing through Iran for the first time.

According to the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRISL), the mentioned transit cargo entered Iran through the Incheh-Boroun border crossing with Turkmenistan heading to Bandar Abbas in the south to be shipped to Saudi Arabia.

The train, which has 36 containers, passes Iran as part of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), Miad Salehi said at the time.

It is estimated that the new route would reduce the delivery time by several days, the official added.

The cost of transit through the INSTC has been decreased by almost half as a result of the reduction of the customs tariff, the official underlined.

Nearly 250 billion dollars of Indian, Chinese, and East Asian products are expected to be transported to Europe through the mentioned corridor.

The founding member states of the International North-South Transport Corridor, namely Iran, Russia, and India, gathered for the third time in Tehran in early July, to discuss solutions for promoting freight transit through the newly developed international corridor.

The event, dubbed "Iran Rah" was attended by senior officials from the three countries including Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash, Head of Iran›s Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) Ali-Akbar Safaei, Deputy National Security Advisor of India Vikram Misri, and Senior Aide to the president of the Russian Federation Igor Yevgenyevich Levitin.

Speaking at the meeting, Bazrpash underlined some of the Islamic Republic's major principles regarding the promotion of INSTC including multilateralism, partnership, transit neighborhood, networking,

facilitation of trade, and intelligent and technological development of transit, and called for maximum collaboration for the development of exchanges through the INSTC.

Further in the meeting, PMO Head Ali-Akbar Safaei mentioned some of the advantages of transit through Iran for the countries in the regions and said: "Iran›s joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Eurasian Economic Union will provide unique opportunities to the country's trade partners, and the Islamic Republic is determined to remove all its tariff and non-tariff barriers in the shortest possible time."

The main rationale for these trilateral meetings is to promote freight transit between India and Russia and other Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea countries, Safaei said.

Elsewhere in the gathering, Misri emphasized India's determination to cooperate with Iran and Russia for completing the INSTC, saying: "India has been a participant in various initiatives and projects regarding the north-south corridor and has always been committed to providing its resources in the best way to the implementers so that this corridor is developed in the best way possible."

Lavitin for his part called the INSTC a humanitarian corridor and asked the countries of the region to join this corridor to achieve its goals.

He underlined the definition of a single policy for trade through this corridor as the most important requirement for the development of trade in this initiative and added: "The main issue discussed in this meeting is defining the same framework and reaching a common understanding for all the business operators that are willing to use this route."

Established in 2000 by Iran, Russia, and India, this 7,200-km-long INSTC works as a multi-modal network of ship, rail, and road routes for moving freight between India, Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia, and Europe.

Geographically, Iran›s territory, particularly the Chabahar port, is very strategic for the activation of the INSTC in linking India to Russia.

The INSTC is also an important transport agenda that is expected to considerably boost the transit and trade of Iran and Russia with the countries of the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf.

Over 18.8m tons of sponge iron produced in H1

TEHRAN- As announced by the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA), 18.86 million tons of sponge iron was produced in Iran in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22).

Direct reduced iron (DRI), also called sponge iron, is produced from the direct reduction of iron ore (in the form of lumps, pellets, or fines) into iron by reducing gas or elemental carbon produced from natural gas or coal. Many ores are suitable for direct reduction.

While Iran is fighting the U.S. severe sanctions on its economy, and the country's different industrial and economic sectors have been affected by the limitations and difficulties caused by the sanctions condition, the country's mining sector is moving forward noticeably, overcoming such barriers.

Among the mining sector's different products, sponge iron is an outstanding example, as the production of this item is rising more and more in the country.

Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), Iran's largest metals and mining holding, has stated that one of the most important reasons for the increase in sponge iron production in Iran is the establishment of new sponge iron plants, adding that in recent years, with its new strategy and with the participation of the private sector, the organization has been able to launch several projects to produce sponge iron.

Tehran to host intl. transport exhibition in late Dec.

TEHRAN – The Seventh International Exhibition of Transportation, Logistics, and Related Industries (Iran Trans Expo 2023) is slated to be held at Imam Khomeini Grand Prayer Campus (Mossala) in Tehran during December 18-20, IRNA reported.

This exhibition is organized by Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development and the Fund for Innovation and Prosperity of Unions and Associations.

According to Gholamreza Rezaei, the director of the exhibition, the main goal of this exhibition is to showcase the latest achievements and products in the transportation industry in order to promote competitiveness among the companies and entities active in the sector.

The exhibition will be participated by companies from Iran and several foreign countries including, Russia, China, Spain, and France, Rezaei told reporters on Saturday.

He noted that due to the capabilities of knowledge-based companies and startups, in order to maximize their participation, financial support programs and facilities have been considered for such companies.

The Trans Expo exhibition will be held concurrently with the Seventh Marine, Maritime and Offshore Industry Exhibition.

Transport Ministry begins drafting comprehensive development plan

TEHRAN – Iran's Transport and Urban Development Ministry has started drafting a comprehensive plan for the development of the country's transportation industry, Deputy Transport Minister Shahriyar Afandizadeh announced on Saturday.

"The country's comprehensive transportation plan is a document based on which all of the country's short-term, medium-term, and long-term plans for the development of transportation infrastructure in all sub-sectors should be organized," Afandizadeh explained.

This plan, as the most important upstream document for the development of the country's transportation infrastructure, came under the spotlight in the 80s but hasn't been realized so far due to various reasons.

"Over the past few years, the plan has been specifically put on the agenda of the Transport Ministry and will be finalized soon," he said.

According to the official, to compile the mentioned plan, the country's top scientific and academic centers and consulting engineers with the highest ranks in the field of road and transportation have cooperated with the Transport Ministry.

This plan is being prepared in three main sections, the first of which, focused on forecasting demand for the horizon of the Iranian calendar year 1414 (2035-2036), has

been completed; this section will be used as an input to compile the second and third sections, in order to determine the optimal transportation network based on environmental and economic indicators and criteria.

TEDPIX loses 50,800 points on Saturday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 50,856 points (2.54 percent) to 1,951,217 on Saturday, which is the first day of the Iranian calendar week.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

SEO issues 97 capital increase permits in 6 months

TEHRAN – Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has issued 97 capital increase licenses worth 1.24 quadrillion rials (about $2.44 billion) in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), IRIB reported.

According to a report released by the SEO's primary market supervision management department, the number of companies registered at the Stock Exchange Organization reached 887 companies in the first six months of the current year.

Also the number of non-public financial institutions reached 967 with the registration of 75 new institutions in the mentioned period.

22nd day of Israel-Gaza war

Cutoff, Brutal Air Raids and Ground Failure

By Ali Karbalaei

TEHRAN- Hamas has said that Israel's ground incursion into the blockaded Gaza Strip via three directions on Saturday was a failed attempt by the occupying regime with the resistance inflicting losses on its troops.

It comes as Israel has cut off internet and communications in the Gaza Strip (in addition to its three-week blockade of desperately-needed water, food, fuel and medicine) amid the heaviest Israeli overnight bombardment on civilian targets in different parts of the entirely blockaded territory.

Hamas has said its forces are ready to confront Israeli attacks with "full force" after Israel announced it was expanding ground operations.

The resistance fighters engaged in fierce battles with Israeli troops in Gaza's northeastern town of Beit Hanoun and in the central area of al-Bureij, both located near the separation wall, the armed wing of Hamas announced.

"The al-Qassam brigades and all the Palestinian resistance forces are completely ready to confront the Zionist aggression with full force and frustrate its incursions," Hamas said.

"Netanyahu and his defeated army will not be able to achieve any military victory," It added.

In a statement, the movement said that the "enemy" fell into "ambushes prepared by the Palestinian resistance," noting that Hamas forces used Kornet missiles and Yasin missiles to repel the attacks.

The statement also said it expected the Israeli forces would "attempt to penetrate Gaza again," adding that the Israeli occupation forces used "helicopters to evacuate the wounded and dead from the battlefield."

A member of the Hamas leadership abroad, Ali Baraka, confirmed the failure of the Israeli incursion into the Gaza Strip on three axes, stressing that the occupation faced solid and cohesive resistance and its largest experimental ground incursion to date has failed.

Baraka said that the occupation fell into ambushes set up by the resistance on all the fronts it tried to advance on but withdrew, carrying dead and wounded soldiers.

The official revealed that the Israeli army suffered heavy losses from Friday night to Saturday, and its helicopters intervened to transport the dead and wounded.

Senior Hamas leader Osama Hamdan also spoke about the diminishing Israeli hopes to emerge

victorious after the defeat it suffered on October 7.

Hamdan has called on everyone who possesses weapons under the context of Palestinian legitimacy to confront the Israeli occupation.

The Hamas leader stressed that Hamas intends to release civilian hostages but the indiscriminate Israeli bombing has made it extremely difficult to do so, adding that statements being announced by the United States do not reduce the extent of America's involvement in the aggression against Gaza.

From Friday night to Saturday the occupation intensified its bombing of the Gaza Strip, with heavy airstrikes targeting the eastern and northern regions in particular, coinciding with attempts to storm the tiny coastal enclave, which were repelled by the Palestinian resistance.

By Saturday evening local time, Palestinian media reported violent armed clashes on the eastern border of Khan Yunis, without any Israeli ground progress recorded so far.

The head of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies confirmed that "civilians are being subjected to the heaviest bombing Gaza has ever witnessed."

As Israeli bombs rained down on the Gaza Strip, the al-Qassam Brigades announced a number of retliatory rocket barrages, including the bombing of "the Israeli Zikim base with a missile barrage in response to the Zionist massacres against civilians."

The Palestinian resistance also fired rocket salvoes towards the settlements of Beersheba and Ashkelon in response to the targeting of civilians in the Gaza Strip.

The armed wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the al-Quds Brigades, announced it targeted a nearby Israeli military base with mortar shells.

Overnight reports indicated a renewed Israeli bombardment directed at the vicinity of the Indonesian Hospital and the vicinity of the Al Shifa Medical Complex in Gaza.

Palestinian media reported on Saturday that more than 100 people were killed as a result of an overnight Israeli bombing that targeted a multi-story building that was housing displaced people at a coastal refugee camp in west of Gaza City.

Israeli choppers evacuate killed and injured troops

Israeli fighter jets also struck a house in the Nuseirat camp in the central Gaza Strip, killing a large number of civilians and injuring many others. Reports have also emerged of an Israeli artillery shell landing next to the Indonesian Hospital building in Bait Lahia, northern Gaza.

The Israeli bombing has knocked out the internet and communications across the Gaza Strip, a move that has been met with dismay by human rights organizations who say it threatens to cover up "mass atrocities."

Aid agencies have raised fears for their teams in Gaza after Israeli air strikes knocked out its internet and communications, meaning ambulances were unable to reach patients.The Norwegian Refugee Council says the organization has lost contact with their 54 staff members in Gaza.

The World Health Organization issued a statement stating that "during a night of intense bombardment and ground incursions in Gaza, with reports of hostilities still continuing, health workers, patients and civilians have been subject to a total communication and electrical blackout."

It added, "Reports of bombardment near the Indonesia and Al Shifa hospitals are gravely concerning. The WHO reiterates that it is impossible to evacuate patients without endangering their lives."

Doctors Without Borders warned it is "deeply concerned about the situation in Gaza" and that it has "lost contact with its colleagues on the ground."

The international organization has emphasized its special concern now for patients, medical staff, and thousands of families seeking shelter at al-Shifa hospital and other health facilities, calling for the "absolute protection of all medical facilities, employees, and civilians throughout the Gaza Strip."

Meanwhile, the occupation forces, once again, targeted some areas of Gaza City with internationally banned white phosphorus munitions.

White phosphorus has been used over the past three weeks by the Israeli military both in Gaza and Lebanon, according to Human Rights Watch.

Upon contact, the weapon can burn people, thermally and chemically, it said. The organization said it has verified videos taken in Lebanon and Gaza showing multiple airbursts of artillery-fired white phosphorus over the Gaza City port and two rural locations along the Lebanon-occupied Palestine border.

It said the weapon's use "violates the international humanitarian law prohibition on putting civilians at unnecessary risk." "Any time that white phosphorus is used in crowded civilian areas, it poses a high risk of excruciating burns and lifelong suffering," said Lama Fakih, the group's Middle East and North Africa director.

"White phosphorous is unlawfully indiscriminate when airburst in populated urban areas, where it can burn down houses and cause egregious harm to civilians."

Attacks using air-delivered incendiary weapons in civilian areas are prohibited under the Convention on Conventional Weapons.

An Israeli occupation army spokesman announced that "the Israeli ground forces are working to expand ground activities in Gaza."

The regime is pressing ahead with its deadly aggression against the civilian population of the Gaza Strip, for the 23rd day in a row, targeting residential homes, with the number of martyrs exceeding 7,300.

According to Gaza officials, there are also tens of thousands of Palestinians injured as well as missing people, with more than 1,000 civilians stuck under the rubble. The regime has reissued an evacuation order to civilians in northern Gaza to move south, telling them their window to act before an "impending" military operation was closing.

International organizations say the order not only constitutes a war crime but that there is no safe haven for civilians in Southern Gaza to flee a devastating Israeli bombardment.

WORLD HEADLINES

Saudi Arabia warns US of 'catastrophic' consequences – NYT

Saudi Arabia has voiced grave concerns to US officials over Israel's impending ground assault on Gaza, saying the incursion could be "catastrophic" for the Middle East, according to the New York Times.

During a meeting with US lawmakers in Riyadh last week, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman warned that an Israeli invasion of Gaza would be "extremely harmful" for the broader region, Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal told the NYT.

"The Saudi leadership was hopeful that a ground operation could be avoided for reasons of stability as well as the loss of life," he said.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, who was part of the US delegation, added that the crown prince sought to prevent "a longer and deeper conflict" in the Middle East.

Bin Salman voiced similar fears directly to US President Joe Biden when the two leaders spoke on Wednesday, stressing the need to avoid "a situation that affects the security and stability of the region." He went on to call for a "fair and comprehensive peace" that secures the "legitimate rights" of Palestinians, and urged Israel to lift its "siege" on Gaza.

Saudi's foreign ministry has also condemned any ground operations by Israeli forces that may threaten the lives of Palestinian civilians.

"The Kingdom condemns and denounces the ground operations carried out by the Israeli army in the Gaza Strip, and warns of the danger of continuing to carry out these blatant and unjustified violations of international law against our brotherly Palestinians," a statement by the ministry said after Israel announced.

Death toll from Israeli attacks on Gaza climbs to 7,703

The Palestinian death toll from the ongoing Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip since Oct. 7 has risen to 7,703, the Health Ministry in Gaza announced on Saturday.

The fatalities included 3,595 children, the ministry said in a statement.

It said 19,734 citizens have been injured since the start of the attacks.

The ministry also stated that Israel "committed 53 massacres" in the violent bombardment of the Gaza Strip overnight.

The Israeli army late on Friday widened its air and ground attacks on the Gaza Strip, which has been under relentless airstrikes since the surprise offensive by Hamas on Oct. 7. International aid agencies said they lost contact with staff in Gaza after Israel knocked out internet and communications.

Gaza's 2.3 million residents are grappling with shortages of food, water, and medicine due to Israel's massive air bombardment and total blockade of the enclave.

The UN General Assembly called for an immediate humanitarian truce, with 120 states voting for a resolution put forward by Jordan. Israel, however, rejected it.

Meanwhile, the death toll in Israel stands at more than 1,400.

Lebanese officials confirm attack on Israeli drone

The attack on an Israeli drone from the Lebanese territory reported by Israel's army earlier in the morning has been also confirmed by Lebanese officials.

Lebanese security officials quoted by the Associated Press news agency said two missiles were fired towards the drone flying over Lebanon, but did not hit the target.

Israel said earlier that it had responded to the attack by striking the launch site.

Hezbollah's Military Media Center also published on Saturday a video that shows anti-tank missile being launched at an Israeli tank near Avivim Barracks at the border between Lebanon and occupied Palestine.

The 2-minute footage shows an Israeli tank being hit with two anti-tank missiles fired from Lebanon. The Islamic resistance's operation took place on Wednesday, October 25.

According to media, nearly 29,000 people have been forced from their homes in Lebanon amid deadly exchanges between Hezbollah fighters and the Israeli army, according to the UN.

A total of 28,965 people have been displaced, mainly in the country's south, the International Organization for Migration said in an update, adding that the figure had risen by 37 percent since October 23.

The humiliation of international law

From page 1 ▸ Hundreds of books and articles can be written to name, analyze, and study the crimes being committed in Gaza these days. But what really stands out is the mass starvation imposed on innocent people of Gaza by the Zionist regime. The defense minister of the Zionist regime announced: "I have ordered a complete siege on the Gaza Strip. There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed,". This statement is crystal clear that the Zionist regime and its allies not only have no respect for international law but also are not embarrassed to flout and humiliate the rules of international law flagrantly. This order results in the starvation of civilians as a method of warfare, which is a violation of international humanitarian law and a war crime (ICC Statute, Article 8(2)(b)(xxv)). It also fulfills the legal threshold for the crime against humanity of inhumane acts (7(1)(K)). In fact, the crimes outlined above are being committed with indubitability, and they even amount to genocide.

Article II of the Genocide Convention stipulates that "genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: Killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

By Sepehr Saremi

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Thousands of Gaza workers in Israel go missing

From page 1 ▸ A group of six local organizations, including HaMoked, have petitioned Israel's High Court to disclose the names and locations of the detainees and to ensure humane holding conditions.

According to the petitioners, some of the Palestinians have been detained in the Almon area.

Sarah Wilkinson, a graphic designer who is working for freedom and justice in Palestine, shared on X that "1000s of workers from Gaza, who were employed in Israeli occupied territories, have 'gone missing' in a campaign of mass secret arrests."

The action is believed to be carried out by the Israeli regime to increase the number of Gazans in Israeli prisons, so the Zionists can enter the prisoner swap with Hamas.

Anti-Israel demonstrations: Protesters demand end to killing of Gaza children

From page 1 ▸ Rallies were expected in many UK cities, including Manchester and Glasgow.

The demos come as Israel expands its strikes, three weeks after Hamas launched an attack on occupied territories bordering Gaza.

On Saturday afternoon, crowds started to gather near the Golden Jubilee Bridge holding signs saying "Gaza, stop the massacre" and "Free Palestine, end Israeli occupation".

A sound system led people to chant "Stop arming Israel. Stop bombing Gaza", "We are all Palestinian" along with a slogan saying "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free."

Home Secretary Suella Braverman had previously urged police chiefs to consider interpreting the "river to the sea" chant as an "expression of a violent desire to see Israel erased from the world".

Large crowds were expected to gather around

People attend a rally in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza in Istanbul, Turkey on Saturday

the Embankment, Whitehall, Strand, Westminster and Waterloo Bridges, the Metropolitan Police said.

The force said more than 1,000 officers had been deployed.Thousands also poured into the streets in the German capital Berlin in support of Palestinians. The event was organized by the Global South United campaign, according to the police.About 3,000 protestors gathered in Belfast city center for a rally organized by the Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign. It follows an upsurge in Israel's bombardment of the Gaza Strip over the past three weeks.

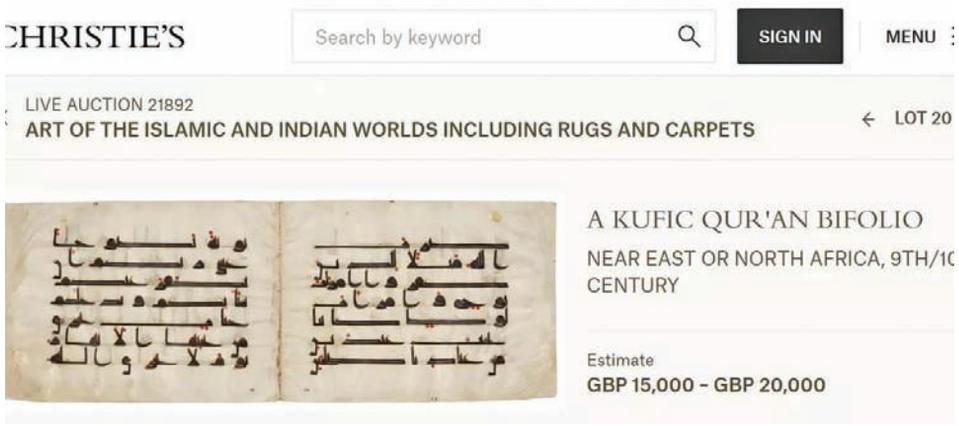
Several pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli demonstrations have been held in Belfast since the violence erupted. On Saturday protesters gathered at Writer's Square to show their support for the Palestinian people. They then walked along Royal Avenue to the City Hall. Khalid Meshaal, one of the political leaders of Hamas, gave a virtual speech at the rally of supporters of Palestine in Kerala. This demonstration was organized by Jamaat-e-Islami of India. Another large demonstration was held in Istanbul, Turkey, where President Recep Tayyip Erdogan toured.

Erdogan said, "Those who shed crocodile tears for the killing of Ukrainian civilians in the war with Russia yesterday are silent witnesses and justifiers of Israel's crimes in the Gaza Strip today."

In the pro-Palestine rally in Istanbul, British singer Yusuf Islam also called for a cease-fire in Gaza as he addressed the "Great Palestine Meeting".

"My message today is to plead for an end to the bombing of innocent families, their homes, and especially the little children who make up half the number of those who have been killed," said Islam, also known as Cat Stevens. Also, Muslims in Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur came to the streets and called for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the killing of children in the Gaza Strip.

Christie's halts sale of Quran bifolio allegedly stolen from Iran museum



TEHRAN – Christie's has canceled the sale of a Quran bifolio after some cultural heritage activists claimed it had been stolen from an Iranian museum.

The ancient bifolio is no longer available to potential buyers following an outcry from some cultural enthusiasts saying it belonged to a Quran stolen by armed men from the Pars Museum in Shiraz, southern Iran.

The London-based auction house has hauled the auction to carefully investigate the claim, according to sources familiar with the matter.

The bifolio is believed to be plucked from a Kufic script Quran, which was stolen from the museum about 20 years ago, and for many years, parts of the manuscript were sold in large auctions around the world at amazing prices.

The bifolilo was supposed to go on sale days ago with a pre-sale estimate of £15,000 to £20,000.

Kufic script

In calligraphy, the Kufic (aka Kufi) script marks the earliest extant Islamic style of handwritten alphabet that was used by early Muslims to record the holy Quran.

This angular, slow-moving, dignified script was called Kufic because it was thought to have been developed at Kufah in Iraq—an early Islamic center of culture. Simple Kufi was developed early in the Islamic era; the earliest surviving copies of the holy Quran—from the 8th to the 10th century—were copied from it. Later a floral Kufi script flourished, and several other varieties of calligraphy developed, including foliated Kufi, plaited or interlaced Kufi, bordered Kufi, and squared Kufi.

Kufi script went out of general use about the 12th century, although it continued to be used as a decorative element to contrast with other scripts that superseded it.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites

Galápagos Islands

The Galapagos Islands area, which is situated in the Pacific Ocean some 1,000 km from the Ecuadorian coast, is sometimes referred to as a unique 'living museum and showcase of evolution'.

The UNESCO-designated archipelago and its immense marine reserve is known as the unique 'living museum and showcase of evolution'.

Its geographical location at the confluence of three ocean currents makes it one of the richest marine ecosystems in the world.

Ongoing seismic and volcanic activity reflects the processes that formed the islands. These processes, together with the extreme isolation of the islands, led to the development of unusual plant and animal life – such as marine iguanas, flightless cormorants, giant tortoises, huge cacti, endemic trees and the many different subspecies of mockingbirds and finches – all of which inspired Charles Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection following his visit in 1835.

Regarding its protection and management requirements, according to the UN cultural body, the main threats to the Galapagos are the introduction of invasive species, increased tourism, demographic growth, illegal fishing, and governance issues (i.e. who takes responsibility for decisions given a large number of stakeholders with conflicting interests involved in managing the islands). These issues are constantly analyzed and monitored to adequately manage them and reinforce strategies to minimize their impact.

Kenya launches tourism products to boost international tourist arrivals

NAIROBI (Xinhua) - Kenya on Thursday launched new tourism products that will enable the country to boost its international tourist arrivals.

John Ololtuaa, the principal secretary in the State Department of Tourism, told journalists in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, that the 17 new signature tourism products will showcase to the world that the country has a lot more to offer beyond the iconic wildlife safaris and the pristine sandy beaches for both repeat and first-time visitors.

"The products include adventure tourism, agro-tourism and wellness tourism, which are recording steady growth in other parts of the world," Ololtuaa said, citing swimming with dolphins, hot air balloon trips, visits to coffee and tea farms, as well as immersive cultural experiences with indigenous tribes of Kenya.

Data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics indicate that tourism is one of the leading sources of foreign exchange earnings alongside diaspora remittances, horticulture and tea exports.

He said that the new products will support Kenya in delivering unique and authentic travel experiences to travelers to ensure that the destination remains competitive in the ever-changing tourism landscape.

The official noted that the demand for new and more products has been rising, which has prompted Kenya to channel its focus toward improving tourism-generated income with respect to the seasonality of international visitors.

Godin Tepe, a human settlement established in 5,000 BC, deserves UNESCO label, expert says

TEHRAN - Godin Tepe, which bears the longest continuous sequence of occupation of any archaeological site in central western Iran, is worthy of UNESCO status, an Iranian archaeologist said on Saturday.

Located in the Kangavar Valley of the Zagros Mountains, approximately halfway between Hamadan and Kermanshah, the archaeological site was occupied more or less continuously from the Early Chalcolithic period in about 5,000 BC to the late Iron Age in about 500 BC.

Godin Tepe is also one of the most important historical monuments left from the Medes period in Iran, which is world famous in that regard, said Morteza Geravand, who presides over Kangavar's ancient Anahita Temple and its satellite sites such as Godin Tepe.

The site is capable of becoming a World Heritage site, he said.

Godin Tepe has recently been demarcated by an archaeological team led by Dr. Kamyar Abdi, who is a prominent theorist and archaeologist from Tehran's Shahid Beheshti University, Geravand stated.

He said some 20 experimental trenches were carved around Godin Tepe to assess the site's boundaries, which yielded relics and cultural materials.

About 5,200 years ago, a mud-brick oval enclosure was built at Godin Tepe. The main building (pictured here) had two windows that may have been used for "takeout".

The site was first discovered in 1961 during an archaeological dig conducted by the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania. Later, in 1865, Godin was excavated throughout five field seasons from 1965 to 1973 by a team directed by the late T. Cuyler Young Jr., under the auspices of the University of Toronto and the Royal Ontario Museum.

In 2005, a major publication project was undertaken under the direction of Hilary Gopnik, to sort, analyze, and make available to scholars the abundant data that emerged from these excavations.

In 2011, that project culminated in the publication of the final report on the site: On the High Road: The History of Godin Tepe, Iran, by Hilary Gopnik and Mitchell Rothman (ROM Publications and Mazda Press).

The major occupation periods at Godin have been classified as Periods XI-VI (c. 5200-3800 BC); Period VI: phases 3-1 (c. 3800-3000 BC) (note that Period VI:1 was called Period V in early reports of the site); Period IV: phases 2-1 (c. 2800-2600 BC); Period III: phases 6-1 (2600-1400 BC); and Period II: phases 2-1 (c. 800-500 BC).

According to World History Encyclopedia, the site was a Sumerian settlement first inhabited c. 5000 BC, which comprised a village and a fortress. It became an important stop along the Great Khorasan Road trade route, better known as the Silk Road, which was the major avenue for trade for close to 3,000 years. (The term "Silk Road" was first coined in 1877 by the German geographer Baron Ferdinand von Richthofen in reference to the trade of Chinese silk).

Tchogha Zanbil celebrates 43rd anniversary of UNESCO designation

TEHRAN – On Friday, Tchogha Zanbil, a prehistoric ziggurat in southwest Iran, hosted a ceremony to mark the 43rd anniversary of its inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Atefeh Rashnoei, the director of the World Heritage, said they invited some children from the neighboring communities as special guests at the event, CHTN reported.

"Seeking to raise awareness and empower the local community and familiarize children with the outstanding values ??of this World Heritage site, children aged 6 to 10 years, were invited to the event as special guests."

In this gathering, in order to strengthen the sense of national solidarity in preserving and commemorating this treasured monument, children formed a human chain around the temple, Rashnoei said.

A chief tourist destination in Khuzestan province, the magnificent ruins of Tchogha Zanbil is considered by many the finest surviving example of Elamite architecture in the globe. It was made a UNESCO site in 1979.

Construction of the ziggurat started in c. 1250 BC upon the order of the Elamite king Untash-Napirisha (1275-1240 BC) as the religious center of Elam dedicated to the Elamite divinities Inshushinak and Napirisha.

The ziggurat overlooks the ancient city of Susa (near modern Shush) in Khuzestan Province. Reaching a total height of some 25m, the ziggurat was used to be surmounted by a temple and estimated to hit 52m during its heyday.

UNESCO says that Tchogha Zanbil is the largest ziggurat outside of Mesopotamia and the best preserved of this type of stepped pyramidal monument.

Tchogha Zanbil was excavated in six seasons between 1951 and 1961 by Roman Ghirshman, a Russian-born French archeologist who specialized in ancient Iran. It bears testimony to the unique expression of the culture, beliefs, rituals, and traditions of one of the oldest indigenous communities of Iran.

Leather inscriptions dating from Sassanid era discovered in cave

TEHRAN – An archaeological dig conducted in a central Iranian cave has yielded inscriptions carved on leather pieces estimated to date from the Sassanid era (224 CE–651).

In addition to leather inscriptions that bear the Pahlavi script, other objects such as raw bricks, pottery fragments, and pieces of cloth have been discovered in this season of the excavation, a local official said.

The cave in which the relics have been discovered had the role of shelter and storage of valuable objects at the beginning of the arrival of Islam in Iran, the official explained.

The cave is located in the highlands of Delijan county in Markazi province.

The Sassanid epoch is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under the mighty empire, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions, such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan, which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble. Meanwhile, crafts such as metalwork and gem engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran — titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region"-- to its World Heritage list.

Textile history museum inaugurated in northern Iran

TEHRAN – On Friday, the first Persian textile history museum in northern Iran was inaugurated, Gilan province's tourism chief said.

The museum, in its first phase, houses and displays more than 200 objects including authentic textiles and local tools and equipment made by the ethnic communities, Vali Jahani said.

It turns the spotlight on the process of making a textile, which starts with the raw material through the weaving stage and ends with the finished product, using life-sized wax figures.

Moreover, visitors have the opportunity to test their skills on the loom and touch on exhibits, according to organizers.

Also on display are arrays of contemporary works based on traditional weaving and design techniques. Traditional costumes and fashion accessories used in ceremonies are on display as well.

The museum is located in Qassemabad village, which was named a world hub of handicrafts by the World Crafts Council-Asia-Pacific Region (WCC-APR) in 2020.

As mentioned by Iranica, textile production in Iran dates back to the 10th millennium BC, and much of the output of Persia's weavers has rightly been hailed as masterworks.

Information on ancient Iranian textiles is somehow fragmentary and episodic, and relates to the ruling households, the military, divinities, and occasionally priests; depictions of women (even female goddesses) are rare.

In fact, our knowledge of dress in ancient Persia comes from pictorial depictions mainly on rock reliefs, metalwork (including coinage), seal impressions, and, from about the second century CE, wall paintings.

Greek archaeologist Petros Themelis who revived ancient Messene dies

Leading Greek archaeologist Petros Themelis, who is best known for pioneering work at the site of ancient Messene in southwest Peloponnese, died aged 87, it was announced on Friday.

Ancient Messene's extensive site includes a theater (one of the largest surviving ancient theaters in Greece) and the Sanctuary of Isis and Serapis.

Under Themelis' initiative, the buildings were reconstructed and the site opened to the public for events, turning Ancient Messene – whose history ranges from the 4th century BC to the 4th century CE– into a living museum and a model for other sites. Its extent covers at least 40 hectares.

Themelis directed the restoration of ancient Messene from 1986.

Themelis was the son of writer Giorgos Themelis, and was born in Thessaloniki in 1936. He studied archaeology and history at the University of Thessaloniki and received his doctorate from the University of Munich.

Among the positions he held in the archaeological service was head of ephorates in Messinia and Ilia (Peloponnese), Attica and Evia, Fokida-Lokrida and Etoloakarnania (all in Central Greece) from 1963 to 1980, and he also headed the Ephorate of Paleoanthropology and Speleology (1980-1984).

He directed the Delphi Museum (1977-1980), and Section I of the excavations at Ancient Eleftherna which is located between Rethymno and Iraklio on Crete (1985-2003).

He directed the excavations and restoration of Ancient Messene from 1986 until his death and received the European prize Europa Nostra for his work there twice, in 2006 (Madrid) and 2011 (Amsterdam).

In addition, he taught classical archaeology at the University of Crete (1984-2003), among other positions he held there.

Themelis also published 10 monographs, 250 reports, tour and site guides, and articles in Athens and Messinia newspapers. Messini, Andritsena and Kalamata had all made him an honorary citizen for his contributions, while he was also an honorary or life member of several Greek and foreign institutes.

He was decorated with the Order of the Phoenix, Commander in 2005 (President Kostis Stefanopoulos), and Order of the Phoenix, Grand Commander in 2016 (President Prokopios Pavlopoulos).

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis recalled the archaeologist, who was devoted to a life "in the trenches" and to highlighting the importance of Ancient Messene.

"Themelis was a great Greek because he leaves behind as valuable legacy in the light he tended, so that our national heritage always shines through time."

(Source: Greek Reporter)

Some $38,000 allocated for equipping special needs schools

TEHRAN – The Organization for Special Needs Education has allocated 19 billion rials (about $38,000) for equipping libraries at special needs schools across the country.

A special needs school is one that provides an inclusive learning environment for students with a wide variety of learning exceptionalities.

It attempts to ensure that each child, despite their learning exceptionality, is provided with the opportunities to succeed academically.

More than 28,000 volumes of books have been procured for special needs schools in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, ISNA reported.

In the past school year which started on September 23, 2022, some 83,000 special needs students enrolled in schools with an average of 50 students in each school.

Rise in school building

The Organization for Development, Renovation, and Equipment of Schools has announced that the number of newly built schools across the country has increased by 104 percent over the past two years.

On a daily basis, 47 new classrooms have been constructed all over the country during the past two years, IRNA reported.

On July 11, the 25th conference on honoring school-building benefactors was held at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in Tehran.

Addressing the conference, First Vice-President Mohammad Mokhber said investing in education and manpower training is the root and basis of any country's development, and this starts from schools, IRNA reported.

Last year (March 2022-March 2023), benefactors donated more than 160 trillion rials (about $320 million) to build and equip schools across the country, he added.

Education Minister Reza-Morad Sahraei said for his part that by September 23 (the start of the school year), some 2,000 educational projects will be implemented and more than 10,000 classrooms will be constructed, 46 percent of which will be done in cooperation with benefactors.

Half of the schools across Iran are built with the participation of benefactors, Mohammad Reza Jafari, CEO of the School-Building Donors Association, has said.

About 40,000 donors are active and involved in building schools across the country, he stated, adding that over 49 percent of schools, amounting to 150,000 classrooms, in the country are built with the participation of school-building benefactors.

Construction of sports spaces, libraries, and developing smart schools are among the current needs in school construction, he stressed.

On January 10, the first national event of future schools was held with the aim of promoting the use of knowledge-based technologies in schools.

The Organization for Development, Renovation, and Equipment of Schools in cooperation with Barekat Foundation organized the event."

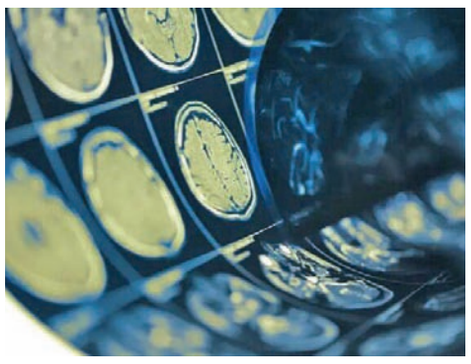
The event highlighted the role of technology in modernizing schools as well as educational and sports spaces.

The Majlis (Iranian Parliament) has approved a special budget to support building schools nationwide.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Education should spend one percent of the revenues of state-run companies and the net profits of banks and private institutions to build schools in deprived areas in line with the goal of promoting educational justice.

The "Brick-by-brick" national plan started in the year 1399 (March 2020 – March 2021), aiming to attract public participation for school construction in deprived areas even by buying a brick.

Stroke is second leading cause of death in Iran: official



TEHRAN – Brain attack is the second leading cause of death in Iran as annually some 15 percent of around 550,000 people suffering from stroke die either on the spot or later, an official with Noncommunicable Disease Office at the Ministry of Health, has said.

Alireza Mahdavi made the remakes on the occasion of World Stroke Day which is annually observed on October 29 to emphasize the serious nature and high rates of stroke. The day is also observed to raise awareness of the prevention and treatment of strokes.

The goal is to reduce premature deaths and disabilities under the age of 70. Unfortunately, at least one-third of deaths under the age of 70 are caused by non-communicable diseases, half of which are related to strokes, ISNA reported.

Stroke, also known as brain attack, usually happens when the blood supply to a part of the brain is disrupted. In this case, either vessels are blocked or they bleed, in both cases, there is an interruption of blood to any part of the brain.

Pointing out that brain attacks are the second leading cause of death in Iran, Mahdavi said strokes are the most common cause of disability in brain and nervous diseases.

Stroke is a vascular complication that can cause long-term brain damage and disability. The severity of disability caused by stroke depends on the extent of ischemia and the intervention time.

He enumerated the symptoms of stroke as convulsions, confusion, neck stiffness, trouble speaking, not understanding what others are saying, numbness in the hands, face, and feet, double vision, blurred vision, blindness in one or two eyes, severe headache accompanied by nausea and confusion, trouble walking, etc.

These signs warn of the occurrence of a stroke, and each of them may appear alone in a person.

With the emergence of some symptoms such as the inability to raise the arms, lack of clarity of expression, and so on ask the person to smile to determine whether the two sides of his face are symmetrical or not. In this case, time is very important to call emergency immediately. Immediate treatment can minimize the long-term impact of stroke.

> World Stroke Day is annually observed on October 29 to emphasize the serious nature and high rates of stroke.

Regarding the prevention of strokes, he said: regular physical activity, a healthy diet, and avoiding tobacco and alcohol are among the most important ways to prevent strokes.

In case one is taking blood pressure and diabetes medications, they should take them regularly to prevent stroke.

According to the latest studies carried out two years ago (ended March 2021) in the STEPS project, it was found that 1.4 percent of the population over 18 claimed that they were diagnosed with a history of stroke, which was reported in men more than women.

This percentage was almost equal in cities and villages. Last year (ended March 2022) the figure was reported to be 0.22 percent of the population of those over 18.

Family history stroke was also reported in 12.5% of men and women aged under 55 and 65 respectively.

World Stroke Day

World Stroke Day was established on 29th October 2004 at the World Stroke Congress in Vancouver, Canada. Later in 2006, the day was proclaimed for public awareness. In 2006, the World Stroke Organization was created with the merger of the World Stroke Federation and the International Stroke Society.

Worldwide, brain stroke is the second leading cause of death, and third leading cause of disability, and the second leading cause of death. Every year, approximately 1.8 million people suffer from stroke. It is noted that low and middle-income countries have witnessed more than a 100 percent increase in stroke whereas the developed countries have witnessed a drop of 42 percent.

This year, the World Stroke Day Theme is "Together we are Greater Than Stroke." It highlights the prevention of risk factors such as hypertension, irregular heartbeat, smoking, diet, and exercise, as nearly 90% of strokes can be prevented by addressing the risk factors.

China's proposals on AI governance

From page 1 ▸ which systematically outlines China's proposals on AI governance.

It is part of China's active effort to advance the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind and the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative.

GIGI puts forward a total of 11 proposals from three aspects, namely, the development, security, and governance of AI. The core components of the GIGI are: We should uphold a people-centered approach in developing AI and adhere to the principle of developing AI for the good of humanity, so that AI is developed in a way that is beneficial to human progress; We should uphold the principles of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit in AI development, and oppose drawing ideological lines or forming exclusive groups to obstruct other countries from developing AI; We should promote the establishment of a testing and assessment system based on AI risk levels, so as to make AI technologies more secure, reliable, controllable and equitable; We support efforts to develop AI governance frameworks, norms and standards based on broad consensus and with full respect for policies and practices among countries, and support discussions within the United Nations framework to establish an international institution to govern AI; Efforts should be made to conduct international cooperation with and provide assistance to developing countries, to bridge the gap in AI and its governance capacity.

> China stands ready to have exchanges and practical cooperation with Iran on global AI governance.

Currently, the United States and some other Western countries erode the governance of new frontiers like AI with their hegemonic mentality, overstretch the concept of national security, and build "small yards with high fences" with their advantage in science and technology.

This has severely hindered developing countries, including China and Iran, from sharing in the benefits of technological development, increasing technological gaps and barriers and intensifying division and confrontation. Certain countries even try to use it as a tool to seek absolute military superiority and intimidate other countries.

China has always participated in global cooperation and governance on AI with a highly responsible attitude. As early as June of 2019, the document named Governance Principles for the New Generation Artificial Intelligence: Developing Responsible Artificial Intelligence was issued by the National Governance Committee of New Generation Artificial Intelligence.

It stated eight principles for further advancing international cooperation on the governance of AI, which include harmony and friendliness, fairness and justice, inclusiveness, and sharing, respect for privacy, security and controllability, shared responsibility, open cooperation, and agile governance. In 2020, the guidelines for the Construction of a National New Generation Artificial Intelligence Standards System were published.

The definition and key scenarios of ethical standards are clarified. This February, the Chinese Government released the Global Security Initiative concept paper, which clearly states that China is willing to strengthen communication and exchanges with the international community on AI security governance, promote the establishment of an international mechanism for universal participation, and form governance framework and standards with broad consensus. Now GIGI presents a constructive approach to the ethical governance of AI, which covers all aspects of supervision, R&D, and utility and the entire life cycle of AI governance and draws up blueprints for relevant international discussions and rule-making.

Scientific inventions and technological progress have always been a "double-edged sword." As a disruptive new technology, AI has brought huge dividends to the development of human society. However, the complex impacts in the economic, military, social, and other fields are also increasingly apparent.

China stands ready to have exchanges and practical cooperation with all sides including Iran on global AI governance, promote global AI governance to develop towards a more just and equitable direction, create a more open, shared, transparent, and sustainable environment for the innovation and application of AI technology worldwide, and deliver benefit for all human beings through AI technology.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

$4m allocated to promote non-motorized transport

A total budget of 170 billion rials (around $4 million) has been allocated to promote bike lanes across the capital city of Tehran, encouraging the residents to ride bicycles, Sakineh Ashrafi, deputy mayor of Tehran for planning, urban development and council affairs has said.

One of the main issues taken into consideration through the next year's budget bill, was development of non-motorized transportation, which focuses on active transportation and human powered transportation including walking and bicycling, she explained.

According to Tehran third development plan, biking as a green transport has been taken into consideration in order to mitigate traffic congestion and air pollution, she further noted, ISNA reported on Sunday.

تصویب اعتبار ۱۷ میلیاردی برای توسعه دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی در پایتخت

سکینه اشرفی معاون برنامه‌ریزی، توسعه شهری و امور شورای شهردار تهران از تصویب حدود ۱۷۰ میلیارد ریال اعتبار برای توسعه دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی در پایتخت خبر داد.

وی اظهار کرد: یکی از موضوعاتی که در بودجه سنواتی سال آینده شهرداری تهران به آن توجه شده، موضوع توسعه حمل و نقل عمومی غیرموتوری از جمله دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی است.

به گزارش روز یکشنبه برگزاری ایسنا وی ادامه داد: در برنامه سوم توسعه شهر تهران ، موضوع توجه به دوچرخه‌سواری به عنوان یک حمل و نقل پاک برای کاهش ترافیک و آلودگی هوا مورد توجه و تاکید قرار گرفته است.

© IRNA / Maryam Al-e Momen

One-room school with five students

A teacher and five students of a single-classroom school in a rural area in the southwestern Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province pose for a photo on October 17.

There are around 135 one-room schools with less than 10 students in the province.

TEHRAN TIMES

www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**

Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran **P.o. Box:** 14155-4843 **Zip Code:** 1599814713

OCTOBER 29, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Shunning a person who is attracted by you is a sign of your misfortune, and your inclination towards another who ignores you is a sign of your abjectness.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:13 Dawn: 4:59 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:24 (tomorrow)

Russian experts to select Iranian films for screening in Russia

TEHRAN- A team of Russian film experts will visit Iran to choose Iranian movies for possible screening in Russia, following a request made by Russia during the second online specialized meeting of Iranian and Russian cinema organizations on Wednesday.

The Russian experts will work with both governmental and private sectors to facilitate screening Iranian films in Russia for the upcoming year, ISNA reported on Friday.

The meeting reviewed the process of implementing the clauses of the recent film agreement between both countries.

Mohammad Khazaei, the Director of the Cinema Organization of Iran, highlighted the need for expediting the implementation process, particularly for cinema and platform screenings in Russia.

He affirmed Iran's readiness to show Iranian films in Russia, following the provisions of the agreement, and added that a team of Russian experts would visit Iran to select films.

"Given the circumstances of the collaboration and pursuant to the request of the Russian side, a team of experts from Russia is set to travel to Iran in order to select films. They will collaborate with both the governmental and private sectors in order to facilitate the possibility of presenting Iranian films in Russia for the next year."

Iran and Russia have signed a crucial film cooperation agreement that encompasses the enhancement of joint film production platforms, augmenting exchange, sales, and promotion of cinematic works, exchanging experts and human resources from both nations for cinema-related events and projects, facilitating the participation of both countries' cinema-related organizations and institutions in international film festivals, weeks, and cinema-related events, exchanging knowledge, and experience in filmmaking.

Further to this, both countries will produce joint works, educate cinema specialists, and propel the audio and visual content in foreign markets.

The meeting showcased Russia's desire to progress the agreement and, with the cooperation of the Russian embassy in Iran, they will follow up on subjects and programs. The Russian representative noted that global sanction implications underline the importance and strategic value of collaboration in this area. With Iranian cinema holding a formidable status in the world and Russian cinema also advancing rapidly despite the sanctions, both countries will benefit from the agreement, particularly in the region.

"There is no doubt that given the global sanctions, this collaboration is very important and strategic, and we believe that Iranian cinema has a very good position in the world, and at the same time, Russian cinema is rapidly progressing despite the sanctions, and the implementation of the agreements between the two countries is beneficial for both in the region."

The Cinema Organization of Iran is an affiliate of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Iran and Russia have established close relations on cultural issues.

In 2021, in a letter sent to Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, Russian Culture Minster Olga Lyubimova congratulated him on his appointment as Iran's new culture minister and invited him to attend the 9th St. Petersburg International Cultural Forum, which was organized in the Russian city from November 11 to 13.

Former Iranian culture minister Abbas Salehi also attended the 7th St. Petersburg International Cultural Forum.

He also met his then-Russian counterpart Vladimir Medinsky on the sidelines of his visit to St. Petersburg.

In addition, the Iranian cities of Tehran and Qazvin played host to the Russian Cultural Days during November 2019.

Russia's Ministry of Culture organized the cultural days in collaboration with Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization.

Groups of Russian cultural figures and officials carried out various programs during the six-day cultural festival, which was organized at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Historical Complex and Qazvin's cultural centers.

An exhibition of Russian traditional artworks was also held at the Niavaran complex.

"Roxana", "Maria" competing in 36th Tokyo International Film Festival

TEHRAN-Two Iranian films are present at the 36th Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF), which started on October 23 in Japan's capital.

"Roxana" directed by Parviz Shahbazi and "Maria" by Mehdi Asghari-Azghadi are the Iranian feature films competing in two sections of the Japanese event, ISNA reported.

Competing in the main Competition section, "Roxana" had its world premiere at the festival on October 25. Two days later, it had a second screening and it will have another showing on October 30.

In "Roxana," a young gambler, finds an unexpected romance with a talented girl artist. Determined to turn his life around, he strives to become a better, more useful person.

With Yasna Mirtahmasb, Mahsa Akbarabadi, and Maedeh Tahmasbi in the cast, the movie is competing with 14 other films from all over the world.

Shahbazi's 1997 debut, "Traveler from the South," won TIFF's Young Cinema Competition Gold Award, and since then he has written and directed seven more films and earned writing credits on half a dozen more.

The Competition section showcases feature films that were completed after January 2023. This year TIFF received 1,942 entries from 114 countries and regions. The International Competition Jury, comprised of international cineastes, will award the prizes to the winners at the closing ceremony.

"Maria" is another flick from Iran, which has been selected for the Asian Future section of the festival. It will have its world premiere on October 29 and will have another screening two days after that.

The debut work of 28-year-old Asghari-Azghadi, the movie is about a filmmaker who looks for the truth about a leaked video and the disappearance of an actress.

Kamyab Geranmayeh, Pantea Panahiha, and Saber Abar are among the actors this tense suspenseful film.

The Asian Future section is dedicated to the world premiere feature screenings of 10 films by emerging Asian directors, up to their third feature film. Awards will be presented to the best films.

The motto for the Asian Future section is "From Asia to the World! From Asia to the Future!" This year marks the eleventh edition of the section since its inception at the 26th Tokyo International Film Festival in 2013. Asian Future is a competitive section that features work from up-and-coming Asian directors, including those from Japan and the West Asia, who have directed no more than three feature-length films.

The 36th Tokyo International Film Festival will run until November 1.

Cartoon of Day

Complete cut off of communications in Gaza
Cartoonist: Ahmed Rahma from Turkey

IAF cinematheque to screen "Showing Up"

TEHRAN – The Cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) will screen American film director and screenwriter Kelly Reichardt's 2022 movie "Showing Up" on Monday.

The screening will be followed by a review session by Iranian critic Masoud Mashayekhi.

The film tells the story of Lizzy, a sculptor and arts administration assistant, who is working on a show of clay sculptures that depict women in motion. She is constantly at odds with her neighbor and rival artist, Jo, who promises to fix Lizzy's hot water heater but fails to prioritize the task. When Lizzy takes a day off work to finish her sculptures, her cat maims a pigeon, which Jo rescues and dumps on Lizzy. Despite initially resenting the bird, Lizzy ends up caring for it and takes it to the vet, developing a bond with it.

Lizzy is worried about her reclusive brother, Sean, who she hasn't seen in six months. When she visits him, he is disturbed and digging a large hole in his backyard, convinced that his neighbors are stealing his TV antenna. Lizzy convinces their mother to visit and put Sean to sleep after he suffers a mental episode. Despite arranging for him to attend her art show, Sean wanders off alone, making Lizzy nervous.

At the art show, Lizzy's family shows up, and Jo brings the pigeon, which is freed by Sean and flies away. Despite their unsuccessful search for the bird, Jo and Lizzy accept that it was ready to fly.

"Showing Up" explores themes of family, mental health, and the struggles of pursuing a career in the arts, told through the journey of Lizzy as she navigates her personal and professional life.

Starring Michelle Williams, the film premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in 2022, where it was nominated for the Palme d'Or.

A scene from American film director Kelly Reichardt's movie "Showing Up"

Neil Simon's "The Star-Spangled Girl" on stage at Arghavan Theater Hall

TEHRAN-The play "The Star-Spangled Girl" written by Neil Simon and jointly directed by Alireza Tajik and Mehdi Hashemabadi is on stage at Arghavan Theater Hall in Tehran.

Directors Tajik and Hashemabadi also perform in the 70-minute play along with Farideh Dadashi, Honaronline reported on Saturday.

The fast-moving, hilarious comedy concerns two earnest young men struggling to put out a "protest" magazine – and the all-American girl who moves in next door, sending both of them into a romantic tailspin.

Set in San Francisco in the 1960s, the play is a story of a love triangle mixed with politics. Andy

and Norman are radical liberals struggling to make a living working on their magazine, Fallout, which is dedicated to fighting "the system" in America.

Sophie, a former Olympic swimmer, is an all-American, Southern girl who moves into the apartment next door. Norman immediately falls in love with Sohpie but his feelings are not reciprocated. Norman's obsession with Sophie makes Andy hire her just to keep the magazine going. When Sophie falls in love with Andy, the magazine and the men's friendship are threatened.

The situation is eventually resolved through a series of hilarious happenings set forth with the masterly skill and inventiveness that are the hallmarks of Neil Simon.

Neil Simon (1927–2018) was an American playwright, screenwriter and author. He wrote more than 30 plays and nearly the same number of movie screenplays, mostly film adaptations of his plays. He has received three Tony Awards, and a Golden Globe Award as well as nominations for four Academy Awards and four Primetime Emmy Awards. He was awarded a Special Tony Award in 1975, the Kennedy Center Honors in 1995 and the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor in 2006.

"The Star-Spangled Girl" will remain on stage until November 15 in the Arghavan Theater Hall located at Ziba Dead-end, Neauphle-le-Château St., Hafez Ave.

Liane Moriarty's latest novel available in Persian

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of Liane Moriarty's ninth novel "Apples Never Fall" has been released in the Iranian book market.

Translated by Sahar Hesabi, the book has been published by Aamout Publication in 592 pages, ISNA reported.

Moriarty, 56, is an Australian author. She has written nine novels, including the New York Times best sellers "Big Little Lies" and "Nine Perfect Strangers," which have been adapted into television series for HBO and Hulu, respectively.

Her latest novel, "Apples Never Fall," looks at marriage, siblings, and how the people we love the most can hurt us the deepest.

The book is about the Delaneys who are fixtures in their community. The parents, Stan and Joy, are the envy of all of their friends. They're killers on the tennis court, and off it their chemistry is palpable. But after fifty years of marriage, they've finally sold their famed tennis academy and are ready to start what should be the golden years of their lives.

The four Delaney children - Amy, Logan, Troy, and Brooke- are all successful grown-ups and there is the wonderful possibility of grandchildren on the horizon.

One night a stranger named Savannah knocks on Stan and Joy's door, bleeding after a fight with her boyfriend. The Delaneys are more than happy to give her the small kindness she sorely needs. If only that was all she wanted.

When the mother of the family goes missing, the four grown Delaney siblings faces a dilemma as the most obvious suspect is their father!

A mystery drama miniseries based on the novel is being made with Annette Bening, Sam Neill, Alison Brie, Jake Lacy, and Georgia Flood in the cast.